Workload on the Children in Primary Classes

171. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Professor Yashpal with a view to reduce the workload on the children in primary classes, has submitted its report ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the recommendations made by the Committee ; and

(c) by when Government propose to implement this Report ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Committee submitted its report to the Ministry on 15-7-93. The important recommendations made in the Committee's report are :

(i) Decentralisation of curriculum framing and preparation of textbooks.

(ii) Adoption of appropriate legislative and administrative measures to regulate opening of school nurseries and abolition of tests and interviews for admissions therein.

(iii) Treating textbooks as school property which can be made available by the schools to children on a rotation basis.

(iv) Abolition of home work in primary classes.

(v) Replacing the prevailing text-based and quiz-type questions in Board examinations by concept-based question.

(c) The Report of the Yash Pal Committee was considered in the last meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) held on 15th October, 1993. The CABE advised wider circulation of the Report and country-wide debate on the various recommendations contained in it before taking a view on the implementatic of the same.

UNICEF Report on Primary Education

172. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied a recent UNICEF report by Mr. Manzoor Ahmed that around 75 per cent children in China completed their primary education in 1992 as compared to 55 per cent in India ;

(b) whether it is a fact despite China's lower share of educational spending as a percentage of GNP, as compared to India, it has attained an overall literacy rate of 79 percent as compared to India's 51 percent ; and

(c) whether Government propose to restructure its education policy on Chinese model, providing higher allocation for primary education ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Chinese model cannot be replicated here in India because of vast differences of historical, social, cultural, linguistic, ethnic and political structures and perceptions. The Indian education system is on sound footing. There are, however, certain common areas in which Indian can fruitfully draw upon the Chinese experience.

As regards higher allocation for primary education, the priority of the government is reflected in the increase in budgetary